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December 31, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: P - Michael D. Schneider

THROUGH: P/D - John Mosher

FROM: P/DH - Saul S. Gifter

SUBJECT: P/DH Recommendations Regarding Grant
Proposals - Concurrence with Evaluation Panel

REFERENCE: A) Memo to P dated 12/24/85, "Grant
Proposal Evaluation Panel Recommendations"

B) Memo to P dated 12/24/85, "Afghan Media
Project - Clarification of Boston University
Grant Proposal"

SUMMARY:

P/DH concurs with the recommendation of the grant evaluation panel. Actual terms of the two grants recommended will be negotiated between the Agency and the prospective grantees subsequent to P/DH's forthcoming trip to Pakistan.

BACKGROUND:

1. P/DH staff has reviewed all of the grant proposals submitted by the five invitee organizations. As a result, this office concurs with the final recommendation of the overwhelming majority of the grant evaluation panel (8 out of 9 members), set forth in reference A, that two separate grants be issued for the Afghan Media Project, one to King Features Syndicate and one to Boston University. This decision is based upon the circumstances surrounding the two Boston University proposals, as explained in reference B, and in consideration of the facts that the Boston University (Trustees) proposal was limited to a total of 12 weeks of training, and the King Features Syndicate proposal was the only one of the six submitted which was completely responsive to the Agency's letter of invitation.

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Classified by: Michael D. Schneider
Associate Director (Acting), P
DECL: OADR

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The exchange of correspondence between Boston University and King Features Syndicate, as contained in the addenda to the King Features Syndicate proposal, indicates a willingness on the part of both organizations to collaborate on the overall Afghan Media Project. P/DH intends to enter into negotiations with these two organizations to shift the emphasis of their activities, as necessary, to meet the needs of the program and the realities of the situation, to be determined during the upcoming P/DH visit to Pakistan. It is contemplated that these negotiations will be predicated upon guidance received from the post and other Agency elements. It is planned that the efforts of both grantee organizations will be integrated into a cohesive program to benefit the overall Afghan Media Project.

2. P/DH concurs in the panel's recommendation to disqualify the proposals submitted by the Committee for a Free Afghanistan and by Boston University (College of Communication), since the two proposals were non-responsive to the guidelines set forth in the invitation letter for grant proposals.

3. P/DH also concurs in the recommendation of the panel that the three humanitarian organizations (Friends of Afghanistan, Afghanistan Relief Committee, and Committee for a Free Afghanistan) and other individuals or groups be considered by the grantee(s) for any area expertise and contacts which each organization possesses for the overall benefit of the Afghan Media Project.

4. P/DH shared the consensus of the panel that the grant proposals submitted by Friends of Afghanistan, Afghanistan Relief Committee, and Committee for a Free Afghanistan were disappointing, lacked substance, and could not be seriously considered for the issuance of a grant under the project.

5. In accordance with item 14 of "Grant Proposal Review Process" established for the grant program (see enclosure F), it is requested that P concur in the recommendations of the panel and P/DH with regard to the issuance of the two grants recommended under the Afghan Media Project. It is expected that, after concurrence by P and the P/DH trip to Pakistan, negotiations will be entered into with the grantee organizations, and grant documents will be formulated and submitted for Agency approval. Enclosures A through M are attached as background on the history of the Afghan Media Project and the proposals that were submitted.

Concur _____

Disagree _____

Discuss _____

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Enclosures: A. Legislative History of the Afghan Media Project

B. P.L. 99-88 Enacting the Afghan Media Project

C. Federal Register Announcement

D. Koehler Report

E. Letter of Invitation to Submit Proposals

F. Grant Proposal Review Process

G. P/DH Preliminary Overview: Grant Proposal Highlights

H. P/DH Staff Review: Observations on Grant Proposals

I. Minutes: Grant Evaluation Panel Meeting

J. Memo to P: "Grant Proposal Evaluation Panel Recommendations"

K. Memo to P: "Afghan Media Project - Clarification of Boston University Grant Proposal"

L. King Features Syndicate Proposal (attached separately)

M. Boston University Trustees Proposal (attached separately)

N. Grant Proposals submitted by Boston University (College of Communication), Afghanistan Relief Committee, Friends of Afghanistan, Committee for a Free Afghanistan (attached separately)

cc: P/D - JMosher
GC - MLynn
M/K - GTreyes
NEA - Dross

Drafted: P/DH: RHoagland: MB: #4880s

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